

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name and that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **MAT FASTENER**, the specification of which is attached hereto unless one of the following statements below is checked (X).

___ The Specification was filed on _____, and was assigned Serial No. _____.

___ The Specification was filed as PCT international application number _____ on _____, and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my/our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my/our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application; that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below:

X Prior foreign application(s):

<u>Appln. Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date Filed (Mo/Day/Yr)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
2000-397814	Japan	December 27, 2000	Yes

Foreign applications filed more than twelve months prior to the filing date of this application:

<u>Appln. Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date Filed (Mo/Day/Yr)</u>
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Appln. Number</u>	<u>Date Filed (Mo/Day/Yr)</u>	<u>Status</u>
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I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and/or an international application based on this application, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and in connection with the resulting patent based on instructions received from the entity who first provides said attorneys with a written notice to the contrary:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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